

A DIFFICULT LIFE & A SAD END

NAME INC ALIASES:

Agnes Inkster

NATIVE PLACE:

Scotland, Shetland

RELIGION:

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OFFENCE:

Drunk

SENTENCE:

Numerous sentences
of approx. 7-14 days
Hard Labour

Most of Agnes Inkster's adult life was spent in and out of prison serving short sentences, usually for minor acts of violence while drunk.

She was especially keen on breaking windows when inebriated, but also had hostility against Bible-bashers. In her mid-thirties in 1909, she set about a Salvation Army street meeting with her umbrella, for which she spent time in this prison.

After her release, Agnes went to stay with her aunt, who one day gave her some money to buy a packet of biscuits. She came back with a flask of whiskey instead, dragged her aunt out of bed, and whacked her on the head with a flat iron. She was too drunk to

remember any of this, and claimed that the little old lady must have just fallen out of bed.

After serving a two-month sentence, Agnes moved to Christchurch, then Auckland, appearing in court at least 30 times on alcohol-related charges, finally going straight in her mid-fifties. Her sad end came in 1937 when she was 70. Agnes was about to be evicted and was worried what was going to happen to her pet cats - she connected a tube to the gas meter and ended it all.

